Read Dec. 1

C. H. M.

To the Sec^y for For. Missions
Soc^y of Inquiry.

Lodiana, Aug. 29. 54.

Dear Brother,

I had much pleasure in receiving, a few months since, a letter from the Society of Inquiry, written by Mr. C. H. Malcom. If he is still the Sec^y for Foreign Correspondence, I have the pleasure of addressing him now: but in this changing world I cannot take this for granted; especially as that office necessarily changes hands frequently, as one class comes and another goes.

I read the letter with much interest, and desire, if the Lord will, to keep up this correspondence as long as I live: for it is a comfort and gratification to me, and a means of encouragement: and if in addition to this any one, or all, of my letters should serve to aid even one of the Lord's called, to make out the fact of his call to the missionary work, or to select his proper

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field of labor, or to add anything to his preparation and fitness for the work, my labor will not have been in vain. Let me say further, that I was grateful for the Princeton News. Any items in this line are acceptable. Oh can, and hope always to retain, a warm affection for Princeton, its institutions, & its people. Will you do me the favor to make my affectionate regards to Dr. Hodge & Dr. Alexander? Those dear and venerable men, Drs. Alexander Sen. & Miller, were still in their health & vigor when I was in Princeton, though far advanced down the vale of life. Many others whom I knew there are now gone to their rest. I shall also be much obliged to you, if you will make my special and affectionate regards to the dear and venerable Mrs. Miller. I have every reason to remember her with peculiar affection.

Now let me thank you for the kind expression of sympathy in my afflictions contained in that letter: you will probably have learned that a sore affliction has been the issue. The devoted and faithful companion of my youth, and the sharer for so many years of my joys and sorrows, has been removed from my sight. I may go to her, but she cannot return to me. I have the unspeakable comfort of hoping

and believing that she is in the presence of the Saviour, to whom she took the load of her sins, her cares, and whom she longed to see: for thus did she long, even while she had her doubts and fears lest she should not be accepted of him: but his loving hand dispersed the clouds, and she went down with comfort into the dark valley. Thus I am not left to sorrow as those who have no hope, while yet I have been made keenly to feel, that "no chastisement is for the present joyous but grievous."

I must answer your inquiries and close. You ask, 1. "Do you think a knowledge of medicine would increase the influence and usefulness of a missionary to India, &c." Yes. I do. I often wish I possessed that knowledge myself. Our little dispensary is regarded as an important adjunct to our operations here. As to the latter part of the query, I would say that a young man might well add another year to his studies, in order to acquire a measure of this knowledge. Yet not every one certainly. Various circumstances must be taken into the account. 2. About a colony. I can't say much as to this. The climate is unfavorable. The customs of the country are much in the way. Still the experiment has been tried. There is a company of German Christians at Darjeeling. But I know little as to the success they have realized, Darjeeling being far away, and we having had no communication with the place. That is a hill station: & on the score of climate I believe favorable. In the Segrah Shoon also I think something has been attempted, but for various causes was I think a failure. A letter addressed to the Rev. J. S. Woodside Segrah Shoon would be sure to elicit information as to the probabilities there: perhaps tea-growing might answer. Inquiries put by letter to the German christians at Dar-

jecting would no doubt procure you information as to the success of this attempt. They know English, more or less: and if you like to write to him, send me the letter & I'll be happy to forward it. 3. About preaching. In our church in the city on the Sabbath, we preach just as we would at home, and often to an apparently very attentive and interested audience. At our speaking places of an evening we are frequently the conversation style: being compelled to do so by the questions and interruptions of the disputatious, sometimes of the seriously inquiring who are present. 4. The native literature. It is very voluminous: but contains little that is substantial. Lately however it has assumed more of that character than was ever the case. Some day I will send you a paper containing a list of recent native works, if I can lay my hands upon it.

5. Observance of the Sabbath by converts. We have not had difficulty on that score. Usually native Christians have been found very ready to fall into suitable ideas on this point. They are not so strict as they should be certainly; and no doubt their conversation is often much less spiritual on that day than it should be: but I think that cases of palpable violation have seldom come to my notice. My answers have been brief, but I trust may prove in a measure satisfactory. And now, hoping and praying that very blessing may rest on the beloved seminary and all its inmates, and especially that a deep and earnest spirit of inquiry may be given to the members of your Society, and all in the Institution, as to the path of duty, and that the